

Message Text

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21

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MHENDERSON:VPB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CASC, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: MARRIAGE CASE - MENSHIKOV/CONLON

1. MISS SHEILA CONLON, AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY HAS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN HER PROPOSED MARRIAGE TO VIKTOR MENSHIKOV, SOVIET CITIZEN, OF DMITROVSKY PEREULOK, BUILDING NUMBER 10, APARTMENT 13, LENINGRAD. MENSHIKOV HAS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT FOR THEM TO BE MARRIED IN LENINGRAD ON DECEMBER 26.

2. MISS CONLON, WHO HAD RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS ON OCT 25, RECEIVED WORD FROM INTOURIST THROUGH HER TRAVEL AGENT ON NOV 17, THAT THESE RESERVATIONS WERE CANCELLED. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN. TRAVEL AGENT ON NOVEMBER 24 REAPPLIED TO INTOURIST FOR RESERVATIONS FOR MISS CONLON, SPECIFYING THAT ALL COSTS HAD ALREADY BEEN PAID. INTOURIST ON NOVEMBER 29 CABLED REFUSAL TO TRAVEL AGENT. WORDING OF THIS SECOND TURNDOWN FROM INTOURIST HAS CONVINCED TRAVEL AGENT THAT IT IS HOPELESS TO PURSUE MAKING RESERVATIONS. MISS CONLON SUSPECTS CANCELLATION RESULTED FROM SOVIETS FOCUSING ON FACT THAT HER VISIT TO LENINGRAD WAS FOR MARRIAGE, A FACT THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN ONLY AFTER

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VISA REQUEST GIVING SPECIFIC REASON FOR TRAVEL WAS RECEIVED

AT SOVIET EMBASSY HERE ON NOV 10. OTHER TRAVELLERS/VISA APPLICANTS (NONE INTENDING MARRIAGE) WHOSE HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND VISA APPLICATIONS WERE MADE BY SAME AGENT AT SAME TIME FOR ROUGHLY SAME PERIOD IN SOVIET UNION HAVE EXPERIENCED NO SUCH TROUBLE. SOVIET EMBASSY, IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY, SAYS CASE IS BEING HANDLED "ROUTINELY"; MISS CONLON'S PAPERS ARE IN ORDER AND PERMISSION FROM MFA HAS BEEN REQUESTED SO EMBASSY CAN ISSUE VISA.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY SUPPORT VISA REQUEST BY APPROACH TO MFA WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH HERE. ROBINSON

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